

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 06733 130807Z

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 SSO-00 ISO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W

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O 130736Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9490

INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL ASMARA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 6733

E X D I S

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, CASC, ET

SUBJECT: TENNECO SIX

REFS: ASMARA 465; ASMARA 466

1. REFTELS SUGGEST THAT, DESPITE EARLIER ASSURANCES OF ZEIN THAT MRS. DORTZBACH AND WEDERFORT WOULD BE RELEASED UNCONDITIONALLY, ELF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HAS NO INTENTION RELEASING THEM WITHOUT RECEIPT SOME FORM OF COMPENSATION. THIS PLUS FAILURE OF RELEASES TO MATERIALIZE BY NOW CASTS GREAT DOUBT ON ZEIN'S STATUS AS AN EFFECTIVE NEGOTIATOR FOR ELF GROUP HOLDING ORIGINAL FIVE TENNECO HOSTAGES.

2. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES IT APPEARED THAT CONSIDERATION SHOULD AGAIN BE GIVEN TO USING MORGHANI AS INTERMEDIARY TO ELF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. AFTERNOON JUNE 12 WE CONTACTED BOGAN AND COLONEL SOLOMON KADIR WITH PROPOSAL FOR NEW APPROACH TO MORGHANI. MORGHANI WOULD BE TOLD THAT MANY OTHER CONTACTS WITH ELF HAD WARNED AGAINST USING HIM AND THAT, WHILE BOTH TENNECO AND IEG WERE INTERESTED IN UTILIZING HIM AS GO-BETWEEN, THEY COULD NOT POSSIBLY DO SO UNLESS HE FIRST BROUGHT BACK ANY TWO OF CAPTIVE SIX AS PROOF OF HIS AUTHENTICITY. BOGAN (WHO WAS SIMULTANEOUSLY IN TELEPHONE CONTACT WITH WILSON IN HOUSTON) AND CONLONEL SOLOMON QUICKLY AGREED AND BOGAN MET WITH MORGHANI THAT EVENING IN PRESENCE SOLOMON'S ASSISTANT TO DELIVER MESSAGE.
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MORGHANI SAID HE COULD NOT EVEN DELIVER LETTER FOR TENNECO

WITHOUT \$100,000 IN ADVANCE AND \$100,000 PLACED ON DEPOSIT WHICH WOULD BE DELIVERED TO HIM AS SOON AS ANY ONE OF CAPTIVE SIX RELEASED. BOGAN REFUSED REACH AGREEMENT ON THESE TERMS.

3. MORGHANI, WHO HAS BEEN STRONGLY ENCOURAGED BY IEG TO REMAIN IN ADDIS FOR LAST TWO WEEKS, SAID HE NOW HAS URGENT BUSINESS IN ASMARA AND IS RETURNING THERE THIS MORNING.

4. CANADIAN AMBASSADOR TOLD ME THIS MORNING THAT AT LEAST ONE MISSIONARY IN ASMARA IS AWARE OF ZEIN'S ROLE AND OF HIS PROMISE REGARDING UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE OF TWO CAPTIVES.

5. WITH ZEIN'S ASSURANCES LOOKING THINNER AND THINNER AND MORGHANI STILL DEMANDING TERMS UNACCEPTABLE TO TENNECO, WE ARE CONSULTING REGARDING OTHER OPTIONS AND WILL BE COMMENTING FURTHER.
WYMAN

NOTE BY OCT: EXDIS ADDED PER INSTRUCTION SSO-R.ELTZ

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